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LETTER DATED 23 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to submit to you the attached letter, dated 19 August 1993, by the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Alija Izetbegovic, addressed to Your Excellency.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 19 August 1993 from the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that the violation of the human rights of Bosnian Muslims perpetrated by the HVO militias (Croatian Council of Defense) in Herzegovina has reached the extent of genuine human catastrophe.

Tens of thousands of people have been expelled from their homeland in order to create ethnically pure Croatian territories.

Men between the ages of 15 and 70 have been arrested and exposed to torture and to selective murder. In early June, the President of the SDA (Party for Democratic Action) in Herzegovina, Zijad Demirovic, was arrested in Mostar together with all the members of his family. Ever since, there has been no trace of him. The President of the SDA in Capljina, Mr. Boskajic, was ruthlessly murdered in front of his own house, before the eyes of his family and neighbours. Men are being detained in various concentration camps listed as follows:

City	Camp location
Mostar	Helidrom, University building
Capljina	Dretelj, Army barracks on Grabovina, military warehouse in Gabela, a former cow farm in Celjevo
Stolac	Army barracks, Tobacco station, a school in Crnici, Steel factory
Vitina	Former agriculture complex
Ljubuski	Prison in Ljubuski
Prozor	Atomic shelter, UNIS, High school complex, Fire-fighters' House

All of the Muslim houses in the villages of Gubavica, Bivolje Brdo, Hasica Glavica, Stanojevici, Pijesci, Seves Polje, Skaljevina, and Lokve, as well as in the suburbs of Mostar, and in Cim and Ilici, have been burnt down. The mosques in the western parts of Mostar, as well as in the villages of Visici and Dubrave have been destroyed before the eyes of the ICRC and journalists who are witnessing the torture and expulsion of Muslims. Muslims are not allowed to leave Herzegovina unless they sign a statement by which they "voluntarily" relinquish all of their belongings. In Mostar alone, more than 8,000 of such statements have been coerced.

Stolac, Tasovcici, Capljina, Ljubuski, Visici, Celjevo, the Mostar quarters of Balinovac and Djikovina, as well as the quarters near the Mostar Cathedral

and the building of the Ministry of Internal Affairs have been ethnically cleansed of the Muslim population. Many of the expelled people, the majority of whom are women and children, are now sieged in the eastern parts of Mostar - Blagaj and Pocitelj Polje and left without any food, water, medications or electricity.

We request the Security Council:

1. To immediately send representatives of UNHCR and UNPROFOR to Mostar and other endangered places, who will confirm the facts on the ground and report to the Security Council and the international community;

2. To urgently secure, through UNHCR, the delivery of the humanitarian aid to all of the expelled population in Mostar and in the concentration camps throughout Herzegovina;

3. To order the HVO (Croatian Council of Defense) to free all of the detained civilians, and to request that prisoners of war be treated according to the international conventions.

Once again, we also point out our request that the city of Mostar be declared a protected area.

It is unfortunate that I have to point out that the responsibility for the tragedy of the Bosnians and, in particular, of the Muslims in Bosnia lies, in addition to the two nationalistic armies, upon those in the international community who have imposed the "arms embargo" upon the Bosnian people, through which they have practically tied our hands behind our backs and abolished our right to self-defence guaranteed by the United Nations Charter.

Excellency, I urge you, at this time, to secure at least the right of survival to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina who have been denied the right to defend themselves.

(Signed) Alija IZETBEGOVIC
President of the Presidency